

Conservation Commission News

Conservation Land Purchases Completed

The town has completed the purchase and long-term financing of nearly 400 acres of conservation land. Last June, more than 700 voters at a Special Town Meeting unanimously approved four Articles committing Duxbury to purchase the Conservation Land. At that time, the expected cost to the Town was \$2,710,000. That cost has been significantly reduced through State grants and very favorable bond financing. The actual cost was \$1,933,822.

In July, the State approved reimbursements of \$500,000 for the Camp Wing purchase. Water Dept. funds of \$100,000 were assigned to a portion of the Mayflower St. property, which provides access to a future wellsite.

In December, the Town issued \$4,588,000 in general obligation bonds including \$1,604,000 of ten-year general obligation bonds covering the costs of conservation land acquisitions voted at Special Town Meeting. Town Treasurer John Ferguson obtained an interest rate of 3.893 percent, one of the lowest rates obtained by a Massachusetts town in 1998. Moody had assigned a favorable rating of AA2 to these bonds and to the rest of the town's outstanding debt. At the June Town Meeting, voters expected a rate of 5.25 percent. This translates into a savings of \$121,000 interest over the life of the bond.

In November the Town had closed the purchase of 11.28 acres off Union St. Earlier, closings were held on 354 acres of Camp Wing, 4.76 acres on Summer St. and 4.3 acres on Mayflower St. For each closing Town Counsel Robert Troy and his staff conducted title examination and

search, obtained title insurance, and recorded all necessary documents.

The Conservation Commission is working with the selectmen and town officials to improve management of conservation land. A goal of the Commission is to improve community access to the land. The Commission is preparing a Management Plan for Camp Wing and the Summer St. parcel. A Forestry Plan for Camp Wing is complete and the science director from the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts is preparing an inventory of flora and fauna. The Commission will use this information to determine the most appropriate uses of the property, prepare a draft Multi-Use Management Plan for the property, hold public meetings, and publish a final Management Plan which includes an implementation schedule.

In other developments, the Town Highway and Natural Resources departments have repaired the dam at Camp Wing off Temple St. The Conservation Commission also finalized transfer for 17.36 acres of land with the help of the Conservation Fund. The Commission is updating the 1989 Town Open Space Map to reflect these and other changes which have been made over the last ten years.

The Conservation Commission and its staff appreciate the support of the selectmen, the town manager and other staff. Most importantly, they wish to acknowledge the continued support of Duxbury voters, who made it possible to protect nearly 400 acres of environmentally significant land for future generations.



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